



Colorado's Preschool to Postsecondary Alignment Act, SB08-212 (CAP4K)

Commissioner Dwight Jones, Colorado Dept of Education
Executive Director David Skaggs, Dept of Higher Education



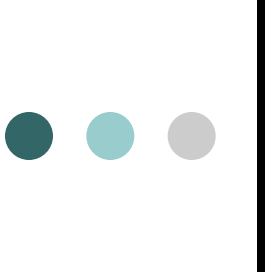
Evening's Objectives

To understand...

What SB08-212 is and why we are here.

To hear from you...

We need your ideas to help guide the 212 process and shape the outcome.



SB08-212 – Key Points

Postsecondary and
Workforce Readiness



Descriptions of “School Readiness”
and “Postsecondary and Workforce
Readiness”



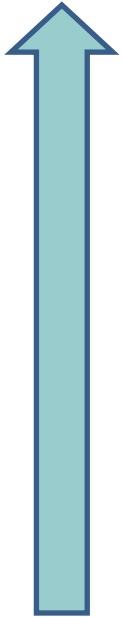
Revised Standards
(Fewer, Clearer, Higher)



Assessments and
Endorsed Diplomas
(High School Pilot)



Higher Ed
Admission
Standards



School Readiness



Why Are We Here?

- High school graduation rates are declining and achievement gaps are rising.
- College remediation rates are too high.
- Too many who enroll in college don't stay to completion.
- Our highly educated population grows through immigration, while degree attainment by Coloradans lags.
- Colorado has largest ethnic gap in college attainment in the U.S.
- Employees enter workforce unprepared.



High School Graduation Rates

- For the first time in history, students are less likely to graduate high school than their parents.
 - Colorado is 46th in the U.S. in the rate of high school completion.
- A large disparity exists in Colorado high school graduation rates between White (82%) and Asian (84%) students and their Black (66%), Native American (59%) and Hispanic (57%) peers.



College Remediation Rates

In Colorado Public Institutions:

56% Two Year Public Institutions

20% Four Year Institutions

30% Overall Rate



College Retention & Graduation

At Colorado Public Institutions:

Enrollment:

63% High school graduates enrolling in college

Retention (one year after entry):

55% Two-Year Institutions

72% Four-Year Institutions

Graduation:

21% Two-Year Institutions (2003 Cohort)

56% Four-Year Institutions (2000 Cohort)

Source: The National Center for Higher Education Management Systems, 2007

Source: Surds Remedial Course File, End of Term Completion, 2006-2007



College Attainment

- Colorado is 4th in the U.S. in the percentage of college educated citizens.
- Colorado is 44th in the U.S. in 2-yr college attainment (i.e., an AA degree).
- College education gap between White and Hispanic students (the next largest ethnic group) is larger in Colorado (36%) than any other state and is twice the national average.



Unprepared Workforce

- Students lack traditional “soft skills” – *leadership, collaboration, and hospitality* – and need retraining.
- Business owners expect employees to know how to learn.
- Business owners expect employees to have writing, speaking, and leadership skills.



To Summarize

Improvement is needed in both high school and higher education for all Colorado students to graduate postsecondary and workforce ready.



What does SB08-212 ask of *you*?

The Departments of Education and Higher Education seek input from educators, parents, students, employers and others on a description of “postsecondary and workforce readiness.”



Guiding Questions

- Describe what skills and competencies students need to be postsecondary ready.
- Describe what skills and competencies students need to be workforce ready.
- Are there special considerations for the workforce or higher education in your region of the state?



Thank you very much for
coming.

We're here to listen to you.

Let's open up the
conversation.